

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing, reexamination, and further and favorable reconsideration of the subject application, pursuant to and consistent with 37 C.F.R. § 1.112, are respectfully requested in light of the remarks which follow.

Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

A. At pages 2-4 of the Office Action, claims 7 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Haasmaa et al. (U.S. Patent Publication No. 203/0032254) and Ohwada et al. (J. Appl. Glycosci., 2003).

B. At pages 4-5 of the Office Action, claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Haasmaa et al., Ohwada et al., and Scott et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,635,275).

C. At pages 5-6 of the Office Action, claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as purportedly being unpatentable over Haasmaa et al., Ohwada et al., and Wittwer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,738,724).

These rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Applicants submit that the polymer dispersion of Hassmaa et al. contains a starch ester, a plasticizer, water, and a dispersion admixture. The dispersion admixture allows for dispersion of the plasticized polymer melt in sufficiently fine particles in water so as to form a stable dispersion. However, in contrast to Hassmaa et al., the composition recited in present claim 7 contains a starch, a plasticizer and water, but does not require a dispersion admixture.

In addition, the dispersion of Hassmaa et al. is prepared by admixing a starch ester with a plasticizer so as to obtain a plasticized starch ester mixture and adding water. In contrast, the present composition is preferably prepared by performing the mixing of the components in the following order: water, the plasticizer and starch.

Applicants further submit that the additional references cited by the Examiner do not remedy the serious deficiencies of Hassmaa et al.

Further, all the dependent claims are patentable for at least the reasons discussed above, as well as for their additional features.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, further and favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance is believed to be next in order. Such action is earnestly solicited.

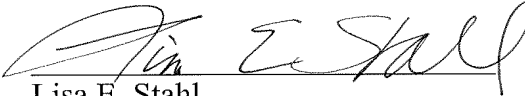
In the event that there are any questions related to this response, or the application in general, it would be appreciated if the Examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney at the below-listed telephone number concerning such questions so that prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL & ROONEY PC

Date: September 10, 2009

By:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa E. Stahl", written over a horizontal line.

Lisa E. Stahl

Registration No. 56704

Customer No. 21839

703 836 6620